

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2062

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INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2976

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, NAC

SUBJECT: PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCE AND SUMMIT BACK-  
GROUNDER

PARIS PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

DEPT FOR OX A/O AND WHITE HOUSE FOR NORMAL EUROPEAN TRIP DISTRIBUTION

SUMMARY: IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE WIDEST AND BEST POSSIBLE COVERAGE OF  
PRESIDENT FORD'S VIEWS AT SUMMIT IN EUROPEAN AND WORLD PRESS, MISSION  
STRONGLY RECOMMENDS PRESIDENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCE AT ITS CONCLUSION  
AND BACKGROUNDER BY U.S. SPOKESMAN ON PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS AT  
END OF FIRST DAY. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING AND AT CONCLUSION OF SUMMIT, EUROPEAN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT  
AND THEIR SPOKESMEN WILL BE BRIEFING THE SEVERAL HUNDRED CORRESPOND-  
ENTS REPORTING ON THE MEETING, COVERING NOT ONLY WHAT THEY SAID,  
BUT ALSO WHAT THEY UNDERSTAND PRESIDENT FORD TO HAVE SAID. MISSION  
EMPHASIZES GREAT IMPORTANCE OF PRESIDENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCE AT  
NATO HEADQUARTERS AT THE CONCLUSION OF MEETING FRIDAY AFTERNOON  
AS MEANS OF PROVIDING PRESIDENT FORD WITH BEST POSSIBLE  
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OPPORTUNITY FOR PRESENTING U.S. FOREIGN POLICY VIEWS TO EUROPEANS  
ON THE MAIN FRIDAY EVENING TELEVISION AND RADIO NEWS PROGRAMS, AND IN  
SATURDAY MORNING AND WEEKEND NEWSPAPERS. MAXIMUM EFFECT COULD BE  
ACHIEVED BY BRIEF STATEMENT ON SUMMIT AND ON IMPORTANCE OF NATO TO

U.S. SECURITY FOLLOWED BY A FEW QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS--A TOTAL OF NOT MORE THAN ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES. ASSUMING SUMMIT MEETING WILL END AT 1630, THIS WOULD NECESSITATE SETTING BACK THE SCHEDULED MEETINGS WITH BRATTELI AND ORTOLI ABOUT A HALF HOUR. ADDITIONAL BACKGROUNDING FOR KEY U.S. PRESS COULD BE DONE LATER.

2. IN ADDITION, WE RECOMMEND THAT A U.S. SPOKESMAN GIVE A BACKGROUND BRIEFING TO THE NATO PRESS THEATER TO ALL CORRESPONDENTS PRESENT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S OPENING STATEMENT ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE MEETING. A BACKGROUNDER AT THIS EARLY POINT WOULD UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE THE U.S. ATTACHES TO THE MEETING AND WOULD HELP INSURE THAT NEWSSTORIES THE FIRST DAY ARE WRITTEN ON THE BASIS OF WHAT THE PRESIDENT ACTUALLY SAYS RATHER THAN ON WHAT OTHERS SAY HE HAS SAID

3. IN ADDITION TO U.S. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES, AN ADDITIONAL FOUR TO FIVE HUNDRED FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS WILL COVER SUMMIT MEETING. THE PROPOSED PRESS CONFERENCE AND BACKGROUNDER WILL HELP ASSURE THAT FOREIGN AS WELL AS DOMESTIC PUBLIC AFFAIRS OBJECTIVES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ARE SERVED.

BRUCE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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